



IEN Technical Advisory Committee

October 5, 2011

(Approved December 7, 2011)

The October 5, 2011 meeting of the IEN Technical Advisory Committee was held in the Barbara Morgan Room, LBJ Building, 650 West State Street, Boise, Idaho.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Alternates Present:

Jerry Reininger (Chair), Meridian School District
Brady Kraft, IEN
Jerry Piper, Cambridge Telephone Co. (phone)
Chris Gibson, Jerome School District (VTC)
Ryan Gravette, IDLA
Randy Gaines, ISU (VTC)

Others Present:

Keith Murphy, CenturyLink
Mike Vance, ENA
Martin Bilbao, ENA
Bob Gibson, NIC (VTC)
Garry Lough, IEN
Julie Best, IEN
Mike Costa, IEN
Lenny Simpson, ENA (phone)
Meredith Newton, Cisco
Earl Nebeker, Cisco
Sally Brevick, OCIO
Joel Strickler, CenturyLink
Debra Stephenson-Padilla, IEN

Jerry Reininger asked Committee's approval to add an item to the agenda: VTC Update (Brady). Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Jerry Piper to approve minutes from June 1, 2011 meeting, the motion passed unanimously.

CONNECTIVITY UPDATE

Brady Kraft reported that 107 districts (178 schools serving 78,000 students) have been completed. In addition, since the printing of the report, Lapwai and iSucceed have also been completed. The nine remaining districts are either awaiting final connection, testing or, in the case of Payette, pricing. It is still to be determined at this time whether Inspire Virtual Charter School will be connected to the IEN. It is anticipated that the "In Progress" schools will be completed in the next week. A number of schools have become IEN-eligible in the past 18 months. E-Rate funding for these schools will be sought in February which, if successful, will make them eligible for bandwidth and connection to the IEN in July 2012.

The tracking of bandwidth use is becoming easier as data for several months is now available. Eight schools have been identified as requiring more bandwidth in order to be operating below 60% of capacity. As CenturyLink continues to expand their Metro-Ethernet coverage, schools currently provisioned with TDM will be converted to Metro E, thereby realizing cost savings that will offset the increase in bandwidth needed in other areas. Bandwidth levels are measured over the course of a month on a per-day average during the hours of 7am to 5pm.

E-RATE FUNDING

With regard to the timeline for E-Rate filing, Brady Kraft reported that ENA has been proactively reminding school districts of the deadline for submitting their forms and providing assistance where necessary.

VIDYO

Brady Kraft led a discussion on VIDYO which ILDA is deploying. Having extensively reviewed this technology, Brady reported that, while it was a viable option for desktop video requirements, it was not ideal for immersive interactive education use in classrooms.

VTC UPGRADES

Due to an increase in utilization, the number of “origination” sites has increased from 30 to 45, which in turn requires the acquisition of more codecs. Brady Kraft reported that he had undertaken a review of the newest technology from Cisco and Polycom which revealed the need for a codec designed specifically to support interactive education. Both Cisco and Polycom are working to develop this, in the meantime the immediate order for 15 codecs has been split between the two companies.

Since the last meeting, the IEN has purchased a 40-port bridge and small content server from Cisco which have been installed and are available to use (contact Mike Costa). Polycom has donated (for an indeterminate period) their equivalent 60-port high definition server. The IEN has also purchased Renovo software (VTC scheduling package) and is working with the supplier to make modifications to the software to enhance its capabilities and user-interface. Julie Best will demonstrate the software at the December committee meeting.

“STUDENTS COME FIRST”

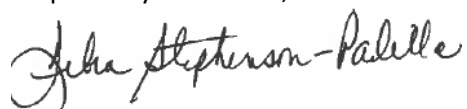
Brady Kraft reported on his visit to Maine (the model for the wireless aspect) and his collecting of data from school districts in order to identify potential bottlenecks. The role of the Department of Administration will be limited to the wireless portion of “Students Come First” and the target for completion is fall 2013. In the discussion that followed, Brady explained that the wireless network will be situated within a school building that connects to that school’s WAN and it will therefore be the responsibility of the district to manage, including the internet filtering. IEN bandwidth is already being monitored, increases in usage have been factored in and will be dealt with on an individual district basis.

ENA/CENTURYLINK UPDATES

Joel Strickler (CenturyLink) reported that the deployment of Metro Ethernet is moving forward, CenturyLink is continuing to keep costs under control while still meeting needs. Ryan Gravette commented on the “Internet Essentials” program that Comcast recently introduced, providing a low cost internet service in homes where students receive free school lunches. CenturyLink has introduced a similar program and further consideration will be given as to how the IEN might contribute in the gathering of data to benefit students. Mike Vance (ENA) reported briefly that although there is more activity due to schools being back in session, issues continue to be resolved quickly.

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Stephenson-Padilla